

What I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. An arrangement for providing an electronic information service in a computer system which is connected to a network, a number of users being able to write information into and read information from the electronic information service in the computer system via the network, characterized by

- means for creating (25) a first information object comprising a partial area of a virtual pixel area, which pixel area contains information written by users from among said plurality of users,

- means for transmitting (31) the first information object via the network to a first of said plurality of users,

- means for receiving (33) a second information object from the first user corresponding to at least part of said partial area of said virtual pixel area, and

- means for updating (35) said virtual pixel area utilizing the received second information object.

2. An arrangement according to claims 1, wherein said virtual pixel area contains a position-coding pattern.

3. An arrangement according to claims 1, wherein said means for creating a first information object also adds a position-coding pattern to this information object.

4. An arrangement according to any one of claims 1-3, wherein said means for creating the first information object comprises means for receiving (23) a request from the first user concerning transmission of a partial area of said virtual area, and wherein this partial area is inserted in the first information object.

5. An arrangement according to claims 4, wherein said virtual area contains a background image.

6. An arrangement according to claims 4, wherein said means for creating a first information object also adds (27) a background image to this information object.

7. An arrangement according to any one of claims 1-6, wherein said virtual pixel area consists of a number of graphical files.

8. An arrangement according to any one of claims 1-7, wherein said means for creating a first information object also adds (29) an information image to this information object.

9. An arrangement according to claims 8, wherein said information image is selected on the basis of user parameters specific to the first user and available to the computer system.

10. An arrangement according to any one of claims 1-9, further comprising means for notifying (37) a second user when a partial area of the pixel area has been updated.

11. A method for providing an electronic information service in a computer system which is connected to a network, a plurality of users being able to write information into and read information from the electronic information service in the computer system via the network, characterized by the following steps:

- creation (25) of a first information object comprising a partial area of a virtual pixel area, which pixel area contains information written by users from among said plurality of users,

- transmission (31) of the first information object via the network to a first of said plurality of users,

- reception (33) of a second information object from the first user corresponding to at least part of said partial area of said virtual pixel area, and

- updating (35) of said virtual pixel area utilizing the received information object.

12. An arrangement in a computer system connected to a network, which system comprises an electronic information service to which users can send messages and from which users can read messages via said network, characterized in that the information service comprises a virtual area consisting of a matrix of pixels which is at least two-dimensional, and in that there are

- means for receiving (43) a message from a user,
- means for receiving (45) a position indication associated with said message from said user, and

(continued)

(continued claim 12)

- means for placing (47) said message in a position on said virtual area, which position is determined by said position indication.

13. An arrangement according to claims 12, wherein the arrangement incorporates means for removing said message after a certain period of time.

14. A method in a computer system connected to a network, which system comprises an electronic information service to which users can send messages and from which users can read messages via said network, characterized by the following steps, the information service comprising a virtual area consisting of a matrix of pixels which is at least two-dimensional:

- reception (43) of a message from a user,
- reception (45) of a position indication associated with said message from said user, and
- placing (47) of said message in a position on said virtual area, which position is determined by said position indication.